

Bitlis is one of the roughest and most fanatical and turbulent of Turkish cities, but the present Governor, Eaouf Pasha, is a man of energy, and has reduced the town and neighbourhood to some degree of order.

Considerable bodies of troops have been brought in, and the garrison consists of 2500 men. These soldiers are thoroughly well clothed and equipped, and look remarkably clean in dress and person. They are cheery, soldierly-looking men, and their presence gives a little confidence to the Christians.

The population of Bitlis is estimated at 30,000, of which number over 20,000 are Kurds. Both men and women are very handsome, and the striking Kurdish costume gives a great brilliancy and picturesqueness to this remarkable city. The short sleeveless jackets of sheepskin with the black wool outside which the men are now wearing over their striped satin vests, and the silver rings in the noses of the girls give them something of a " barbarian " look, and indeed their habits appear to be much the same as those of their Karduchi ancestors in the days of Xenophon, except that in the interval they have become Moslems and teetotallers ! Here they are Sunnis, and consequently do not clash with their neighbours the Turks, who abhor the Kurds of the mountains as Kizilbash. The Kurdish *physique* is very fine. In fact I have never seen so handsome a people, and their manly and highly picturesque costume heightens the favour-

able effect produced by their well-made,
lithe, active
figures.

The cast of their features is delicate and
somewhat
sharp; the mouth is small and well formed;
the teeth are
always fine and white; the face is oval; the
eyebrows
curved and heavy; the eyelashes long; the
eyes deep set,
intelligent, and roving; the nose either
straight or de-
cidedly aquiline, giving a hawk-like
expression; the chin